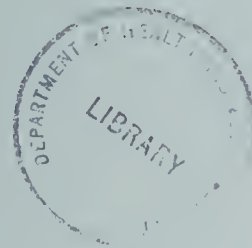


**NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES RURAL  
DISTRICT**

---



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

1970



NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

IAN G.P. FRASER, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Area Health Office,  
Wagonway Road,  
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

DOUGLAS S. HALLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector,  
Council Offices,  
52, Ravensdowne,  
BERWICK UPON TWEED.

Tel: Berwick 6512



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

Vital Statistics Comment was made last year about the distortion produced by the non-transfer of births and deaths between England and Scotland by the General Register Office. No unofficial correcting information is available for 1970 and therefore statistics for both will be slightly lower than the actual occurrences.

During 1970 both the crude and adjusted birth and death rates were considerably below those for England and Wales which were 16.0 and 11.7 per thousand respectively. This is unexpected for deaths in a District which has an older than normal population but it is a small community and deaths in 1969 were above the national figure. In 1970 there were three deaths from motor vehicle accidents but only one of these involved a resident in the District. The other two lived in Scotland but, as stated, the information was not transferred. Other causes of death show no abnormal factors or distribution.

Immunisation Last year acceptance rates for primary immunisation of infants appeared to be unsatisfactorily low but the statistics for 1970 show a reversal of this position. A lower acceptance rate had been contrary to the experience of doctors and health visitors and would seem to have been apparent rather than real and due to recent changes in the immunisation schedules and method of recording. Measles vaccination has become acceptable and its value is indicated by a general fall in the level of the disease. Vaccination against rubella (German Measles) became available for 13-year-old girls. This is a prophylactic measure against possible congenital defects as a result of infection during pregnancy and acceptance was reasonably good.



Infectious Diseases There were no new cases of tuberculosis. Eleven cases of measles were notified.

Reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, were received concerning the level of toxicity in mussels over the summer months. This rose above the accepted safety level at the beginning of June and then fell below it by the beginning of August. The usual warning notices were placed near the mussel beds and commercial fishing was discontinued. Levels of toxicity were not high and have fallen annually since 1968. There is no indication yet of the summer months being declared an annual closed season but this would probably be the most logical procedure.

Sewerage Schemes The proposed scheme to link East Ord with Berwick will be beneficial but a number of other villages will require appropriate treatment. The costs of standard treatment works are high as also can be routine staffing. It may well be worthwhile considering prefabricated treatment plants for other schemes bearing in mind possible technical improvements in future years particularly as a result of growing national and international attention being paid to pollution in any form. Lower cost of installation would also permit more rapid progress with schemes.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,422 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 12.

The estimated mid-year population was 3,760 and this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

(No information is available concerning Norham & Islandshires births or deaths which occurred in Scotland)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	19	22	41
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>41</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			10.9
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.26)			13.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			-
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-
Total live and still births			41
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			49
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			49
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			49
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			49

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined  
per 1,000 total live and still births

49

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Deaths	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>	20	13	33
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			8.8
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (0.92)			8.1

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	5	2	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	3	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
Totals	<u>20</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>33</u>

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles

11

TUBERCULOSIS

No cases of tuberculosis were notified.



IMMUNISATIONBerwick M.B., Belford R.D., Glendale R.D., Norham & Islandshires R.D.

(Population - 26,770)

Disease	Primary Immunisations			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	371	12	383	63	414	477
Whooping Cough	366	8	374	29	149	178
Tetanus	371	12	383	64	424	488
Polio	375	8	383	60	417	477
Measles	203	75	278	-	-	-
Rubella	-	159	159	-	-	-

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	286	12	298	1	2	3

There were 352 live births in the area during 1970 and the number of primary immunisations of infants under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	105%
Whooping Cough	-	104%
Tetanus	-	105%
Polio	-	106%
Smallpox	-	81%
Measles	-	58%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Berwick Borough	195
Belford R.D.	-
Glendale R.D.	71
Norham & Islandshires R.D.	-
Total	<u>266</u>

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report summarises work carried out by my department during the year under review; it is compiled in accordance with the Department of Health and Social Security Circular No. 1/71.

I take this opportunity of expressing thanks to Members of the Council and colleagues for assistance and co-operation given during the year and to members of the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company for supplying information included in this report.

D.S. HALLEY

Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The quality and quantity of water supplies to the District by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company continues to be satisfactory with the exception detailed below:

Monthly bacteriological samples of supplies from the Berwick Bulk supply, Middleton Hall F.P., Holy Island Borehole, Kyloe Borehole and Ancroft Borehole ( Private Supply) showed satisfactory results, though again the private supply at Duddo showed intermittent contamination. A sterilising unit was in hand ready for installation at the end of the year to treat the supply to the six Council houses for which the Company was responsible, while the supply to the remainder of the village was being improved by the owner.

Twenty six samples of private water supplies were taken by the Department and of these fifteen were unsatisfactory. Thirteen of these were of the Duddo supply and were taken in order to indicate the points where pollution was taking place.

In the case of the other two unsatisfactory samples, work was begun and in hand respectively at the end of the year to remedy the situation.

Four other private supplies sampled were satisfactory.

Table showing supply of water from public mains to domestic premises

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct to House</u>		<u>By Standpipe</u>	
	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Ancroft	204	530	-	-
Cornhill	110	286	-	-
Duddo	6	15	-	-
Holy Island	116	301	2	2
Horncliffe	117	304	-	-
Kyloe	89	231	-	-
Norham	226	587	-	-
Ord	130	338	-	-
Shoreswood	47	122	-	-



Naturally occurring fluorides were present as follows:-

Middleton Hall	less than 0.1 milligrams per litre.
Holy Island Borehole	0.3 " " "
Kyloe Borehole	0.1 " " "

Figures for the other sources of supply are not available this year.

#### SEWERAGE

Six samples of effluent were taken from the three sewage treatment plants and five of these were found to be satisfactory. Minor works of improvement were carried out to obviate a recurrence of the unsatisfactory sample.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Again no major infestations were found but nineteen complaints were received of rat and mice infestations and twenty-one treatments were carried out. Seven sewers were test-baited and as a result, three sewers treated covering the manholes showing "takes".

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	1,850	143
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	16	10
(b) Total number of properties infested by (i) Rats	15	4
(ii) Mice	1	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	8	9
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	8	8
(ii) Mice	-	-

HOUSING

A general survey of houses in the District was begun and by the end of the year, details were known of the housing position in the Parishes of Norham, Horncliffe and Ord. Only thirty eight of the five hundred and eleven houses in these Parishes lacked standard amenities showing that over 92% of the houses had all amenities, a very high percentage.

STATISTICS FOR 1970

Number of houses completed during 1970:-

(a) By the District Council Nil

(b) By private enterprise 12

Number of inhabited houses in District 1,422

Number of houses owned by Local Authority 357

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

- |                                                       |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas               | 8   |
| 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas           | Nil |
| 3. Houses closed not demolished                       | Nil |
| 4. Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings | Nil |

REPAIRS

Houses made fit by informal action Nil

CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Number of unfit houses in Clearance Programme  
remaining to be dealt with at end of year (estimate) 8

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

Number of privy closets in District at end of year  
(estimate) 7

Two water closets were installed in place of chemical closets following the service of Sec. 47 notices.



IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(1) Discretionary

(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority	23
(b) Applications rejected	Nil
(c) Applications approved	23
(d) Approximate average grant approved per house	£804
(e) Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	348

(2) Standard

(a) Number of applications received and approved	1
(b) Total number of approvals to date	28

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Ten inspections were made to the two caravan sites in the District and only minor breaches of licence conditions were found. These were dealt with informally.

A preliminary inspection was made of a proposed site and requirements notified to the applicant.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Meat inspection at the one licensed slaughterhouse continued satisfactorily and two inspections carried out under the Cruelty and Hygiene Regulations showed the premises to be of a very high standard.

Seven slaughtermen were licensed during the year.

Animals slaughtered and inspectedBullocks/Heifers

182

Sheep

428

Visits to slaughterhouse for meat inspection 133

Meat condemned:-

Beasts Livers	183 lbs.
Sheep Livers	6 lbs.
	<u>189 lbs.</u>

MILK SUPPLIES

Thirteen samples of raw milk taken to determine the presence of *Brucella Abortus*, all proved to be negative, and at the end of the year, only one dealer continued to supply untreated milk from the District.

Three samples of pasteurised milk and one sample of untreated milk, all taken by the County Public Health Officer, passed the statutory tests.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Ten inspections were carried out and in only two instances was it necessary to send informal notices.

The table below shows premises subject to the Regulations grouped in trade categories and the position regarding hand washing facilities and facilities for washing food equipment.

Trade Group	No. of Premises	Premises Complying with Reg.16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 Applies	No. of Premises Complying with Reg.19
Bakeries	1	1	1	1
Bakers Shops	1	1	1	1
Butchers Shops	1	1	1	1
Cafe/restaurants	9	9	9	9
Grocers Shops	9	9	2	2
Hotels/Guest Houses	17	17	17	17
Hostel	1	1	1	1
Mead Factory	1	1	1	1
Public Houses/ Licensed Premises	8	8	8	8
School Kitchens	6	6	6	6
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Totals	55	55	48	48

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966

Five inspections were carried out and one informal notice served.

Conditions generally were satisfactory.

COMPLAINT

Only one complaint was received, of a chocolate cake affected by mould. This occurred due to poor stock rotation and ignorance of the code used. A letter of warning was sent to the retailer.

ICE CREAM

Six samples of ice cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination were all classified as Grade I.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928 & 1936

Forty five petroleum licences were renewed and twenty nine inspections were carried out. All seven ullage tests carried out proved the tanks concerned to be satisfactory.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

Eleven inspections were made regarding means of escape in case of fire and five notices were served.

SUMMARY OF NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Animal Boarding Establishments	5
Caravan Sites	11
Complaints and Nuisances	33
Disinfection and disinfestation	2
Factories	7
Fire - Means of Escape	11
Food Premises - Hygiene	10
Houses	451
Ice-cream Premises	5
Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles	8
Milk Sampling	13
Notifiable Diseases	Nil
Rodent Control	43
Offices and Shops	15
Sewage Disposal	2
Slaughterhouse - Meat Inspection etc.	133
Storage of Petroleum	29
Water Supplies	16



APPENDIX 1FACTORIES ACT 1961

## 1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to Health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	14	6	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not incl- uded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	1	Nil	Nil
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	19	7	Nil	Nil

## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)	
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp-ector (4)		By H.M. Insp-ector (5)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable Temperature(S.3)					
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not seperate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

3. OUTWORK - SECTIONS 133 and 134

There are no outworkers employed within the District.

APPENDIX IIOFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963REGISTRATION, GENERAL INSPECTION AND PERSONS EMPLOYED

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during year	Pers- ons Emple- yed
Offices	-	2	-	4
Retail Shops	-	4	-	14
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	Nil	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	4	77
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-	-
	Nil	15	4	95
			TOTAL MALES	35
			TOTAL FEMALES	60

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 15



